EPI Update for Friday, July 12, 2013 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Update on the Cyclospora outbreak in Iowa
- Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) update
- Updated Yellow Fever vaccine stamp policy
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Update on the Cyclospora outbreak in Iowa

As of today, July 12, 45 cases of *Cyclospora* infections have been reported to IDPH; almost all have been identified through testing at the State Hygienic Lab (SHL), including:

- Linn County 21 cases
- Fayette County 3 cases
- Polk County –3 cases
- Dallas County 2 cases
- Des Moines County 2 cases
- Mills County 2 cases
- O'Brien County 3 cases
- Webster County 2 cases
- Black Hawk 1 case
- Benton County 1 case
- Buchanan 1 case
- Johnson County 1 case
- Pottawattamie 1 case
- Van Buren County 1 case
- Woodbury 1 case

While the specific source of this outbreak has not yet been determined, the investigation indicates fresh vegetables, not fruit, are the likely source. As cases continue to be reported, epidemiological interviews and cluster investigations are ongoing. Almost all illness onset dates are mid-June, and at least one person has been hospitalized. Many people report still being ill with diarrhea and some have relapsed.

Healthcare providers are encouraged to test for *Cyclospora* if a patient has had diarrheal illness lasting more than a couple days and is accompanied by severe anorexia or fatigue. Stool specimens for *Cyclospora* testing should be submitted to the State Hygienic Laboratory, must be in transport media suitable for parasitology testing, and must be accompanied by a physician order (completed test request form). If you have any questions regarding testing, please call the Hygienic Laboratory at 319-335-4500.

Recommended treatment for adults is trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole twice daily for 7 days (160 mg trimethoprim and 800 mg sulfamethoxazole in adults). No highly effective

alternatives have been identified for persons who are allergic to (or are intolerant of) TMP-SMX. Limited, anecdotal data are available for use of nitazoxanide.

For more information, visit

 $\underline{www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=Cyclospora, \ or \\ \underline{www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/}.$

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) update

IDPH was recently contacted concerning another possible case of MERS in Iowa. The child had traveled to the Middle East and exhibited mild respiratory symptoms of cough, sore throat, and fever. Clinical specimens were obtained and sent to SHL for testing. The results were negative.

If you suspect a patient may be infected with MERS, please contact IDPH immediately. Information about the testing can be found at www.shl.uiowa.edu/news/mers.xml,

81 laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-Co V) have been reported to the World Health Organization (WHO). Travelers who have recently visited the Middle East or Asia and are exhibiting respiratory symptoms with fever will be given information sheets on MERS at the airport advising them to seek medical care if their symptoms worsen. They are also given a "Note to the Doctor" with information on the disease, available testing, and directions for contacting public health.

For recommendations and guidance on MERS-Co V, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/MERS/index.html.

Updated Yellow Fever vaccine stamp policy

IDPH has updated the policy for healthcare providers requesting a Yellow Fever stamp (required if providing the Yellow Fever Vaccine). Visit www.idph.state.ia.us/az_index.asp#Y and click on Yellow Fever Vaccine Provider for more information.

Meeting announcements and training opportunitiesNone

We wish everyone a happy and healthy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology Iowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736